

LONDON 2010
GOOD YEAR **BAD YEAR**

Plus 20 to watch for 2011.....



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Good Year

Tim O'Toole Brent Cross Jules Pipe
 Richard Lambert Ian Brown Cricklewood OPLC
 Ron Dobson Lutfur Rahman
 Bob Kerlake Film London Alexander Lebedev Qatari
 Zac Goldsmith LandAid Thames Festival
 London Assembly Inward Investment UKCMRI
 Academies Metro Bank Bob Neill
 Super/Merging Councils ExCeL
 Glenda Jackson Electric Cars Oxford Street Val Shawcross
 Mike Brown Fulham FC Open City Weekend Dee Doocey
 Respect Party Wembley WIFI on the Tube BFI
 Elephant & Castle London Councils Stansted

Westfield English Cricket Boris' Bikes
 ODA Tourism London Eye Olympic Venues
 Royal London Hospital Chelsea FC Tall Buildings
 David Higgins The Savoy The O2 THFC
 Margaret Hodge Crossrail Nick Clegg Ed Milliband
 HSI London Labour Party East London Line Extension
 One New Change Ken Livingstone GP Commissioning
 Thameslink LOCOG David Cameron
 Evening Standard HS2 Mittal Tower Boris Johnson
 Battersea Power Station Gatwick
 London City Airport New Routemaster
 Thames Tideway Tunnel Simon Hughes

Bad Year

Think/Visit/Study East London Cable Car
 TFL London Portobello Market
 Crown Estate Estuary Airport
 Independent i Local Newspapers
 Print Media West Ham FC
 Shaun Bailey Bendy Buses East London Marathon Route
 Hijab Gates Royal Parks CABE
 Susan Kramer PCTs London Underground UDCs
 Olympic Route Network LDA
 Business Link Building Schools for the Future Oona King
 GOL Gritting
 London BNP Tube Upgrades Council Newspapers Tube Lines

London Conservative Party Student Riots
 Arsenal FC Eyjafjallajokull Volcano Sir Paul Stephenson
 Unions Eurostar
 NHS London London Lib Dems Kettling
 London Weather World Cup Bid
 Roadworks David Milliband Vince Cable BAA
 Ai Wie Wie Turbine Hall Heathrow BA
 Public Sector Workers Met Police LU Ticket Offices Gordon Brown
 Housing Beneficiaries Quangos UK Film Council
 Third Runway

Low Profile

High Profile

LONDON 2011 20 TO WATCH

London Communications Agency



Each year we try to spot who will be worth watching over the next 12 months in London. The Olympics clearly dominates our list for 2011 but with elections 16 months away, the Localism Bill going through Parliament, quangos being cut or reformed and strikes never far away, we think the 20 below will be worth watching.

Andrew Altman

The Olympic Park Legacy Company (OPLC) will have a challenging couple of years ensuring that the venues have a financially viable legacy following London 2012. Key issues in Altman's in tray remain the future of the Olympic Stadium, who will take on running the aquatics centre, what happens to the IPC/MPC and a deal on the athlete's village, as well as how all this knits together into a coherent masterplan. On top of this is the impending creation of a Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) in the Localism Bill which will probably not come into force until 2012 - but who transfers over to the MDC remains to be seen.

Bankers

With their public perception in the gutter and the industry itself still suffering, bankers face a tough 12 months as they seek to restore their tarnished reputation as the engine room of the City, London and the UK's economy. The recent bonus round will make this redemption harder and most politicians, Boris apart, still view Banker Bashing as the go to sound bite for increasing personal ratings. What happens next with RBS, whether high street and investment banks are split up and any signs of humility will all be crucial whilst the City Corporation will need to offer balanced support to ensure that banks and business don't leave the Square Mile.

Peter Bishop

The decision to abolish the London Development Agency (LDA) by April 2012 presents Peter Bishop with another twist in a London career that sees him as one of the capital's most influential thinkers on urban development. Will he move to the GLA to look after the LDA's property assets? Could he take on a wider role across the GLA family in this regard? Or does another local authority CEO role beckon?

Lord Coe

Seb Coe, as chairman of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (LOCOG), is perhaps the most recognisable face of 2012 and we predict he will be seen and heard more than anyone in London in 2011. His soundbite "next year we have the Games" captures how close we are to the event. His calm persona, ability to inspire, and top level political connections across all parties, will be vital as LOCOG deal with the many issues it faces while preparing to hold the greatest show on earth.

Bob Crow

Like him or loathe him, Crow exerts an extremely powerful influence on the way London moves around, as leader of the RMT union. The Tube ticket office closures in London remain a contentious issue with TfL and the Mayor's office. And the prospect of a strike on 29 April could take on global prominence given the royal wedding on the same day - yet another example of Crow's headline-grabbing instincts. Meanwhile, his support for almost every union involved in strike action could have a massive effect on London. There was talk of a general strike in the tail end of 2010 and, with further cutbacks and redundancies being made in Town Halls across London and nationally, this could become a stark reality.

Paul Deighton

The LOCOG chief executive and his team have almost raised the £2bn budget from the private sector despite tough economic circumstances and continue to work very closely and effectively with the ODA to ensure the Olympic Park venues are delivered on time in 2011. The challenges this year are now all about handover from the ODA to LOCOG and the delivery of the overlay across the Olympic Park and venues. From security to street furniture, from ticketing to toilets, the team at LOCOG will be under the spotlight like never before.

Peter Hendy

The Transport for London (TfL) commissioner has now been in the job for five years under two very different Mayors having previously served as the managing director of Surface Transport and working for London Transport in various guises non-stop since 1975. In 2011, Hendy will face pressure from further strikes and a cutting of spending - and jobs - across TfL following the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR). There is also the continued pressure of maintaining finance for Crossrail and the Tube upgrades in tough economic times. He has always delighted in being involved in the detail...or will he finally decide he's had enough of it all and look to move on?

David Higgins

The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) chief executive leaves in February to become the chief executive of Network Rail. Despite his widely commended work in ensuring the Olympics will be delivered on time and on budget, Higgins has a mammoth task keeping customers happy as rail fares continue to rise whilst having to make savings across the company following the CSR. Higgins will be in charge of planning the High Speed Two rail network and London projects include the long awaited redevelopment of Euston station, the next phase of Paddington and significant development at Waterloo station. Out of the frying pan...

Dennis Hone

The ODA's finance director, Dennis Hone, will take on the role of chief executive in February. He will have his work cut out in stepping into the shoes so well filled by David Higgins. Hone has a mission to ensure that the delivery of the Olympic Games continues to be well ahead of schedule with all venues due to be completed this year. His financial background will be of immense value to guarantee that the project stays within budget and the completion of all the venues and infrastructure is signed off.

Simon Hughes

The London Liberal Democrat MP and former Mayoral candidate is perhaps now the leading conscience of the party in his capacity as Deputy Leader. Taking on the role of justifying the tuition fees has been a significant step and a tangible demonstration that he is doing all he can to keep the Coalition together. Whether this will continue throughout 2011 is the key question and Hughes's stance on a range of issues will be scrutinised intensely by the political media.

Boris Johnson

Johnson faces the most challenging year of his term of office, balancing his stance as Mayor with support for the Coalition as Ken Livingstone starts to crank up his mayoral election campaign. Boris has done this well to date, but there is always the risk of cracks especially once the media start giving Ken more airtime. Among the big issues in his mammoth in tray are the Unions, bankers' bonuses, the new Routemaster, policing numbers, affordable family homes, a new promotional agency and of course gaining more powers through the Localism Bill.

Sadiq Khan

As the man who ran Ed Miliband's leadership campaign, shadow Justice Secretary Sadiq Khan now has the unofficial role of the leading London Labour politician. The first Muslim (former) Cabinet minister, how he involves himself in the fast approaching Mayoral election in 2012 and what relationship he forges with Ken Livingstone will be central to Labour and fascinating to watch.

Ken Livingstone

The announcement in 2010 of the Labour candidate and his running mate, current London Assembly Member Val Shawcross, means they have the opportunity to begin their 2012 Mayoral campaign now. Shawcross will continue to sit on the London Assembly and will be looking to score points off Boris Johnson at every opportunity. Livingstone, who has attended almost every Mayor's Question Time since losing the 2008 election, will spend the year encouraging voters to equate Coalition cuts with the Conservative Mayor. Expect Simon Fletcher, his former chief of staff who helped secure a very good result for Labour in the May 2010 borough elections, to remain his key adviser.

David Lunts

What next for David Lunts as the HCA London functions are brought into City Hall? His history at the Greater London Authority could work in his favour and it would not be a surprise should he move back into City Hall to head up the new London HCA/LDA body. The cuts continue to present a housebuilding problem in the capital and Lunts will come under pressure in 2011 to supply as much affordable housing as possible.

Bob Neill

The number one priority for the Communities Minister in 2011 will be the Localism Bill. The department hope to have this completed by the autumn with a view to bringing the Bill into practice at some point in 2012. Meanwhile, a separate review into local government resources will look at how to localise business rates. In London there is the small issue of what to do with the Thames Gateway. Which all means that Neill has a busy year ahead of him, with decisions that could have a profound impact on the way the planning and local government systems work for long into the future.

Jules Pipe

The directly elected mayor of Hackney became chair of London Councils following the local elections of May 2010 which saw Labour fight back in the Capital. This role comes at a time when Local Authority spending is facing severe cuts and the way he campaigns for all London boroughs will make for an interesting year. His initial spats with heavy hitter Eric Pickles suggests this will be a big challenge but 15 years of local government experience gives Pipe a solid grounding.

Lutfur Rahman

Rahman became Tower Hamlets' first directly elected Mayor in November 2010 having stood as an independent candidate after his dismissal from the Labour Party. He is now in the difficult and unusual position of overseeing a borough that has a majority of Labour councillors, previously his council colleagues, as well as taking on a resurgent Respect party who won his former ward in the summer. Alongside this he is faced with the deepest cuts of any local authority in London and a showdown with London 2012 bosses as he threatens to take them to the High Court over the switch of marathon route. So just one or two issues there, then.

Willie Walsh

Walsh takes on a new London focus having been appointed chair of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) in September 2010. This will undoubtedly give him more of a London presence as he attempts to maintain its reputation as the world's leading place to do business in light of difficult economic conditions, with the airport expansion programme in limbo and facing intense competition from cities around the world. Additionally he looks like he might face further industrial action from the British Airways cabin crews and further complaints if Heathrow and British Airways fail to invest in equipment to deal with adverse weather.

CEO of Promote London

Promote London - the name of the new single London promotional agency which incorporates Study, Think and Visit London - will be set up on 1 April 2011 with £14m a year guaranteed for three years. The Group Director of the London Development Agency, Danny Lopez, is the interim chief executive. Whoever takes on this role permanently will rapidly be dubbed the international salesman or saleswoman of London, challenged with the task of incorporating all three agencies whilst making sure that London continues to punch above its weight in he run up to and beyond 2012.

Liberal Democrat Mayoral Candidate

The only un-named member of our 20 to watch, rumours as to the identity of this one in 2010 included London Assembly Member, Baroness Dee Dooney. But her recent appointment to the House of Lords leaves her as an unlikely candidate. Lembit Opik was banded about in the early part of the new government but is also unlikely to be selected. The bottom line is that with the party's polling at an all time low, and even highly respected politicians like Susan Kramer and Simon Hughes making little impression, this is a candidacy for someone to raise their profile - as Kramer did - but not to win.